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20 January 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR : Project Director
FROM : Contracting Officer
SUBJECT : Proposed Suppliers Meeting - Project AQUATONE

1. Our last suppliers meeting was held on 12 December 1955. At that time Headquarters operational concepts and plans were necessarily tentative. Also the suppliers progress in hardware scheduling varied from fairly exhaustive tests on the vehicle and engine to initiation of basic design work in the case of the sextant.

2. Since such meeting our operational concepts and plans have begun to crystallize. During the months of January and February it is expected that considerable progress will be made in testing and proving out basic mission items (A-1, A-2, B, System 1, 2a, 2N, 3; the sextant; and processing equipment.) In addition considerable experience will have been gained in pilot training and in reliability of the vehicle and engine under mission conditions. Actions to obtain and inspect the initial overseas base will have been completed.

3. In consideration of the above schedules, and the desirability of having the next meeting at the earliest possible time that definitive results are available on all basic mission equipment, it would appear that the next suppliers meeting should not be scheduled before 27-28 February 1956 or later than 5-6 March 1956. If held too early, definitive results will not be available; if scheduled very late in March, insufficient time will be available to make operational schedule changes which may be indicated as a result of the meeting. 21

4. It is suggested that the next meeting be held in Washington, D. C. and that one day be allotted to a general meeting and the second day to discussion of specific problems with individual suppliers by individuals in Headquarters. Experience in previous meetings indicates that one half day meetings are insufficient to properly cover the subject. In view of the importance of this next meeting, no less than one day should be allocated for this purpose, and at least a portion of the second day should be available. West Coast visitors could schedule out of D. C. on the noon flight or on the three o'clock flight the second day. Also by holding the meeting on Monday, Sunday can be utilized for travel to D. C.

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